



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

JANUARY 1986

FORECAST: FALL 1986-87

Silhouettes and themes for Fall '86 evolve naturally from this year's styles. The New Romantics evolve from equestrian and baroque styles. The "Now" Ethnics continue fashion's meander around the globe. Spare knits refine this Fall's revolutionary body-hugging shapes. Details are minimal. The cut of the fabric speaks for itself. Highly styled, luxurious simplicity.

REVIEWED:

FORECAST:
FALL '86/87

SPORTSWEAR FOR
SPRING/SUMMER '86

DESIGNER FOCUS:

KEVIN DORNAN
VINH PHAM
DAVID SPADA

SUMMER HANDBAGS

COOL SHADES

THE NEW ROMANTICS have a British-European flavor. Daywear continues equestrian themes but moves from the modern hunt to historical drama: nip-waisted short-coats with peplums, knickers, crisp, ruffled white blouses---modernized with sleek "ski" pants, lug-soled shoes and short skirts. Rather than piling on baroque accessories, this look relies on a few statement pieces: top hats, boaters, accordion-pleated jabots, cabashon-stone pins, multi-stranded pearls with large, jewelled side clasps. Evening wear is dramatic. Look for full skirts and ruffles. Sumptuous, stand-out fabrics: pane velvet, cashmere, shiny rayon, silk, drapable wools, and pima cotton in dark, elegant colors: cream, ruby, forest green, dark brown, black, mustard.

THE "NOW" ETHNICS: African emphasis shifts from the tribes to the colonials. Classic safari-wear is all-important -- khaki jackets with big pockets and trench tabs, multi-pocketed walking pants, safari skirts and ascots. Austria inspires a pretty tyrolean look --large, floral, fringed scarves in jewel tones, loden green wool, front-laced walking boots, flower-sprigged full skirts, dainty, lace-trimmed blouses. The new Western trend focuses on the American Indian. Red, white and black knit sweaters with traditional tribal patterns. Navajo prints in desert colors, unlimited suede, fringed jackets, pants and boots; large handwrought silver or faux Indian jewelry inset with chunks of turquoise and stones, beaded belts, headbands and pins. Also: Persian Prints.

SPARE KNITS: These pieces are sleeker and more austere than ever. They have turtlenecks, unexpected wraps and ties; and short hemlines. Varied ribbing widths are important. They are close to the body. Complimentary earrings are bigger than ever. Triangular and oval drops in bold graphics. Top-knotted rib knit caps worn pulled down to the eyebrows, coordinating solid scarves, and the accessory of the season: black, wrap shield sunglasses with ornamental screws.

AMERICAN SPORTSWEAR SPRING/SUMMER '86

This year's collections have stylish flair, with a newly refined simplicity. Focus on the body--with form-fitting knits, narrow suits, swing skirts and spare separates. Ornate patterns and straightforward, boxy pieces are gone. Look for shapely styles with minimal, definitive details: the buccaneer lapel, the tulip hem, the cut-out tank.

SILHOUETTE

The shape is close to the body with a supple, curved structure. Curved seams look crisp with straight, sliced hems. Many designs have wide, defined waists.

Jackets: are big news for Spring/Summer. They're shortened to boleros, cut at the waist or lengthened below the fingertips. ESCADA's elongated aviator is in a black-backed bright watermelon print silk, with square-flapped patch pockets. The two-button, stand up collar, sleeves and back yoke are in a black-backed marbelized print. A linen, navy and coral plaid, three-quarter coat from STANLEY BLACKER has wide, un-notched square lapels in inverse plaid.

Skirts: Narrow suit skirts reach the knee and wide-belted circle skirts fall below midcalf. A knee-length, tulip hem skirt delineates the torso in draped coral silk, by FLORA KUNG. FRANK SMITH designs a matinee length, taupe circle skirt for EVAN PICONE.

Pants: There are three strong categories for pants: leg-hugging bicycle pants reaching just below the knees, narrow capris falling midcalf, and longer, fluid pajama pants. BETSEY JOHNSON shows exemplar bicycle pants in widely striped black and white cotton.

Shorts: Traditional safari walking shorts from BRITISH KHAKI in light weight twill. Peach linen walking shorts by ELLEN TRACY.

Sweaters: The sweater is an important item. Tailored sweater sets abound, as do sleeveless turtlenecks and sculpted hip-length tunics with scoop necks.

DETAILS

Buttons are big, lapels are wide, and turtlenecks are everywhere. Peplums are important, as are side and shoulder shirring. A dolman-sleeved, black silk crepe dress by CLEOPATRA has Shirred side panels which reach from the waist to the knee. Halters and cut-outs are strong. JEANNE MARC shows a black jersey tank and a criss-cross, cut-out back. The major detail theme is safari. Look for trench tabs and button-flap pockets. For evening wear, note the self-jeweled evening sweaters with embroidered bracelets and necklaces.

COLORS

The spectators come first --navy and white, red and navy, black and white, brown and white. Desert colors. Coral, also pink and some neon brights.

PATTERNS

Flamboyant spectators: large dots, wide stripes, big checks and Glen plaid. These prints are used sparingly, with solids. Bold, ethnic prints are balanced with classic designs--palm fronds, simplistic florals, native stripes and jungle themes. These are also tempered with solids.

FABRICS

Flat and drapable. Jerseys, crepes, gabardines, lightweight worsted wools, rayon matte, pima cotton, linen and stretchy knits.

DESIGNER FOCUS:

KEVIN DORNAN

Kevin Dornan's pieces highlight, rather than dominate natural beauty. His leather and suede sportswear is streamlined, yet unrestricting. A perfect example is the snap buttoned big shirt. It has classic man-shirt styling, with a short tail in front, and a long tail in back. It is cut straight, yet full, for a complimentary drape. All of his designs are classic and simple. There are no attention-grabbing shoulders or extreme silhouettes.

He hopes women will feel "comfortable and confident" in his clothes. He uses goat suede for its supple hand, and luxurious look. This fabrication makes each piece look fashionable, yet relaxed. Even the traditional T-shirt is done in suede.

His designs work well together, but he consciously creates them for women to combine with the rest of their wardrobes. The front pleated blush walking shorts could be worn with anything from a cotton summer tank, to an executive blazer and blouse.

(wholesale: \$25-\$190) 485 Seventh Ave., NYC., (212) 239-9590.

VINH PHAM

Vinh Pham explains that "being stubborn helps a lot" in convincing fabric manufacturers to attempt his ideas. "If they say they can't do it, I ask them to try." Pham's dedication to fulfilling his unique vision is evident in the excellence and individuality of his line.

His silhouettes and details are understated, yet stunningly precise and unexpected. A marbelized jacquard narrow skirt in brown/pewter has a four-tiered elastic waist and a double horizontal pleat two thirds of the way down the back. His slim, silken red/green woven pants have a wide gathered section at the knee, and four buttons at the hem.

Every detail has a purpose, and contributes to the whole. A simple sleeveless shell blouse has three horizontal pleats at the center of the bust.

(wholesale: \$35-\$125) 264 W. 35th St., NYC., (212) 741-3988.

DAVID SPADA

It is rare to find jewelry so strikingly innovative, yet simple. "Spadaluminum" is David Spada's new line of brightly colored aluminium coils in rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. His "slinky" bracelets are short or elongated coils, in an assortment of colors and widths. For the more daring, a fist-size, magenta, ball-shaped coil, on a black rubber ring. His rose-holder necklace has green aluminum wire, wound around a necklace of black rubber tubing, with four, green-wrapped, triangular bud vases. Grace Jones wears it with white roses.

Light and energy are crucial to his designs. He cares passionately about both. "I'll never conform!" declares this lithe, elfin man, jumping up to display the way light glints from the multi-colored coils and mirrored stars on his bracelet. "I like to make people conscious of their jewelry, so they are conscious of themselves. When your jewelry reflects light, you are emitting something, and exclaiming yourself."

Spada says it is important to him to maintain reasonable price points, despite making each piece by hand. "In this era of high, high prices, that's not what's important to me. I like things that are chic, for little money." His jewelry retails from \$2 to \$40 at stores such as Bloomingdale's, Fiorucci and numerous boutiques. 518 East 13th St., NYC., (212) 598-9449.

TROPICAL, BRIGHT HANDBAGS FOR SUMMER

Handbags for Summer '86 look "uncluttered." Details are minimal. They have bright, tropical colors and strong, innovative shapes for impact.

THE SHAPES: "Binocular Cases" are tailored. CARRANO shows a classically shaped case in silver leather with a tasseled zipper, and a slouchy binocular case of soft, perforated yellow leather with natural leather trim.
Back Packs made elegant. LA BAGAGERIE's simple over-the-shoulder is of smooth orange leather. FURLA shows a floral tapestry pack, trimmed with brown leather.
Envelope Clutches are sleek and simple. A whimsical, Spring green, faux crocodile envelope from LA BAGAGERIE. Floral stenciled envelopes in jewel tones at FURLA.
Large, Rectangular Totes: PRADA shows a large cream canvas version with an impressionistic black and grey sketch of urban, European architecture. KENNY HOROWITZ has a fabric tote--a large, tropical, floral print on a white or yellow background.

THE COLORS: Tropical brights: orange, yellow, turquoise and vivid green. Some graphic red, white and black. Bold pastel. Two and three contrast tones.

THE DETAILS: Perforated or embossed leather, floral fabric mixed with leather, textured synthetics, tassel ties. Asymmetrical, angular silhouettes.

COOL SHADES

Sunglasses are the accessory for Summer '86. The new shapes look right with everything from beach togs to executive wear. Crucial details include: frames secured with tiny screws, frames that only extend along the top or the bottom of the lenses, rhinestone studs, and colored and animal print frames.

The Shapes: Single lens aviators are the new silhouette. SWATCH "shields" epitomize the look. The continuous colored lenses, in ski goggle shapes, are framed in bright colors, or black/white. Frames which only extend along the top of the lenses form a continuous line with the temples. They range from rectangles to cat-eyes. OPTICAL AFFAIRS' blue cat-eye lenses are topped with a white frame, inlaid with a goldtone stripe. Frames which only extend along the bottom look even newer. Large, solid geometrics have squared tops and wide frames. LIZ CLAIBORNE for TROPIC-CAL shows large, modified squares, rimmed in yellow. Side-cropped frames ---angled, streamlined ovals are abruptly cropped on either side. RIVIERA's yellow framed version has shaded topaz lenses. Frameless sunglasses are generally shaped like ski goggles, in primary brights. UV-A tanning rays can pass through ZOLAND SUNGLASSES "tan-through" model.

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